



# LINCOLN CHAFEE

## U.S. SENATOR

### RHODE ISLAND

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CHAFEE WELCOMES STEPS TO REDUCE HEATING COSTS FOR LOW INCOME RHODE ISLANDERS**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI)** today met with senior officials of the CITGO Petroleum Corporation of Houston, Texas, including its Vice-President Rafael Gomez, as well as representatives of Venezuela, including Ambassador Bernardo Alvarez, to advance discussions regarding the implementation of a heating assistance program for low-income Rhode Island residents.

In November, CITGO began providing discounted heating oil to low income families in New York and Massachusetts. Officials noted that the programs in Boston will provide 1.2 million gallons of heating oil, representing upwards of \$10 million dollars in savings to families. Based upon the models in New York and Massachusetts, it is estimated that 9,000 to 10,000 households and shelters which qualify for the existing Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) could receive up to 40 percent discount on the costs of heating their homes.

Should an agreement be reached, the details of distribution are to be worked out between local heating assistance programs and CITGO.

“I appreciate CITGO’s availability to discuss this opportunity for corporate outreach. I hope we can work together to provide relief for low-income households and people struggling to meet their energy needs in Rhode Island,” Senator Chafee said following the meeting.

“With winter upon us, I am concerned about the ability of our neediest residents to heat their homes, and any source of assistance which can supplement the resources of the state and federal government should be carefully examined,” he continued.

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CITGO wrote to Senator Chafee on November 16, 2005 to express a desire to implement a program in Rhode Island similar to those being explored in Massachusetts and New York. CITGO is currently negotiating with the Governor's Energy Office, the Oil Heat Institute of Rhode Island, and People's Power and Light to find storage space for the discounted oil and determine the details of distribution.

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